



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**  
Walla Walla District

# News Release

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## Enjoy a safe Labor Day weekend on Dworshak Reservoir

**AHSAHKA, Idaho** – The upcoming Labor Day holiday weekend is a great time to visit parks and recreation facilities at Dworshak Dam and Reservoir, operated by the Walla Walla District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Outdoors enthusiasts can enjoy scenic north Idaho while taking advantage of picnicking, camping, fishing, boating and swimming opportunities at the reservoir.

While enjoying the traditional end of the summer recreation season, park rangers would like visitors to be aware that the reservoir is dropping about 1 foot per day, as reservoir outflows are used to help keep downstream rivers cool for migrating salmon and steelhead. Despite the receding water, several locations are available for boat launching:

Big Eddy

Bruces Eddy 1

Freeman Creek (Dworshak State Park)

Dent Acres Park

Grandad

Currently, there are camp sites available at Dent Acres Campground. As Labor Day approaches these sites may go fast, so make your reservations as soon as possible.

It's also a time to remember safety whenever playing in, on or near the water. Here are a few safety tips District park rangers hope visitors will remember while having fun at Corps lakes and recreation facilities: swim with a buddy, don't dive where you don't know what's under the surface and don't consume intoxicants when operating recreational vessels. All Idaho State boating, hunting and fishing regulations apply to visitors at Dworshak Reservoir. Boaters at Dworshak must ensure properly fitted personal floatation devices (life jackets) are on board for each person – children 14 and younger are required to wear PFDs when traveling in boats up to 19 feet in length.

All-terrain vehicle (ATV) operation is prohibited off designated roads, and behind gates or fences. Hunting is allowed on Corps property around the reservoir, except in developed recreation areas.

Corps recreation facilities attract many visitors and to make the experience a safe and happy one for everybody, a few rules apply, because safety is everyone's responsibility.

**--MORE--**

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## **2/2/2 – Dworshak**

Temporary fire restrictions are in place on all lands managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers around Dworshak Reservoir. This includes all developed campgrounds and mini-camps. Forest fuels have reached very dry conditions. To reduce the risk of wildfires, campfires (using established fire rings only) must be completely extinguished between 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. This limitation will be in effect until fire-risk conditions change. Visitors should take extra precautions not only with campfires, but also with other sources of ignition, such as cigarettes, vehicle exhaust systems and even charcoal briquettes. All recreationists are asked to contact the Sheriff's office or Dworshak personnel if they see problems or issues with fires or suspicious smoke.

Please enjoy the reservoir safely this weekend, by taking the following precautions:

- Changing weather conditions can create unsafe situations on open water. Know the weather and have a float plan.
- Keep life jackets on children while on or around the water.
- Don't let small children out of your sight.
- Check the serviceability of your boat.
- Ensure proper fitting, accessible, and serviceable life vests are available for each occupant on your boat.

Better yet, wear them.

- Familiarize yourself with the area you will be boating before proceeding at higher speeds. There may be rocks, stumps, or shallow areas not visible from the surface.

"Please follow all safety precautions while recreating in the forest during the hunting season," said Corps Park Ranger Deb Norton. "When boating on the reservoir, remember that lake levels can change quickly. The weather may be warm, but the water in Dworshak is still very cold from the spring snowmelt and runoff."

Corps park rangers, as well as local law enforcement officials, will be patrolling throughout the holiday weekend, on both land and water, to assist visitors.

The Dworshak Dam Visitor Center will return to fall hours starting September 2. The center will be open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The Visitor Center offers a variety of interpretive displays and movies about Dworshak and the history of the area, including the popular "Last of the Log Drives."

For more information visitors are welcome to call the Corps of Engineers at 1 (800) 321-3198, the Visitor's Center at (208) 476-1255. Information on recreation is also available on the Corps' Walla Walla District Web site at [www.nww.usace.army.mil](http://www.nww.usace.army.mil).